



*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Mrs. Mary L. Smith*



Sunrise: March 9, 1931

Sunset: December 10, 2011

Homegoing Services  
11 am, Tuesday, December 20, 2011  
Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church  
684 Juliga Woods Street  
Richmond, California 94804  
*Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine, Officiating*





# Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....

Processional.....The Family

Scriptures:

Old Testament.....Reverend Lawrence Hart, Pastor, Paradise BC, San Francisco

New Testament.....Reverend George L. Morris, Sr.

Prayer.....Reverend Marvin Webb, Associate Minister, Bethlehem

Solo.....Denise Ousborn

*Walk Around Heaven*

Expressions:

**National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.**

*Reverend Ricky Williams*

**California State Baptist Convention, Inc.**

*Reverend Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr., President/Arnet Heath, President, Women's Auxiliary*

**Progressive Baptist Missionary Educational District Association**

*Reverend Dr. Rodney Leggett, Moderator/Vernadine Randle, President, Women's Auxiliary*

Selection.....BMBC Music Ministry

*There's Something About That Name—Lead: Deacon Jimmy Stuart*

Expressions:

**Clergy**

*Reverend Gregory Payton, Pastor, St. John, Oakland*

*Reverend A K. Hodge, Pastor, Zion Hill, Rodeo*

*Reverend Dr. Ephraim Williams, Pastor, St. Paul, Sacramento*

**Bethlehem Church Family**

*Deacon Lonnie Washington/Deaconess Erma Burnett*

**Friend**

*Rosie Smith*

**Family**

*Evelyn Patterson*

Acknowledgement of Condolences.....Laura L. Maxey

Resolution.....Patricia A. Lewis

Solo.....Janet Booker

*We Shall Behold Him*

Expressions of Hope.....Pastor Alvin C. Bernstine

Parting View.....Shana Michelle Redeaux

*When You Hear of My Homegoing*

Recessional.....



## Precious Memories



Mary L. Smith was born in Baldwin, Louisiana on March 9, 1931 to the proud parents of Solomon and Gertrude Dwyer. She migrated to Port Arthur, Texas where she met Osborne "Buster" Smith. In 1959, they moved to Richmond, California under Holy Matrimony. She proclaimed Jesus Christ at a early age. She was a member of Good Hope Baptist Church in Port Arthur, Texas, and a God-fearing woman. In Richmond CA, she became a member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church (BMBC) in July, 1964 under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Abraham Henry Newman.

Mary L. Smith's favorite scripture was: *"Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works toward the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Psalm 107:8-9*

She was actively involved in the enhancement of the Richmond community for over 20 years. She was instrumental in establishing the Sick and Welfare Ministry at BMBC where she and her Committee members visited and tended to the sick members of BMBC and other Richmond residents in their homes, convalescent homes and hospitals bringing them cheer and gifts of lap aprons, small toiletries and fruit baskets, etc. Get well, sympathy and words of encouragement cards, as well as phone calls were sent to the sick and shut-in. Sometimes while visiting the sick in their homes, she would use her "in-home skills" to bathe and rub their bodies with ointment or turn them over so they wouldn't get bed sores.

Because of her concern for the homeless, during the winter months, she distributed blankets to them (with the assistance of some of the BMBC men) on the streets bringing them warmth and smiles.

Her commitment to the Richmond community was demonstrated in so many ways, especially during the Pre-Thanksgiving Basket Drive that she chaired every year, as she did this year from her sick bed. These baskets were given to those who would not have a Thanksgiving meal for their families if not for the love and concern of Mary L. Smith. Last year under her leadership, over 65 baskets were given to families.

Also, during the Christmas Holiday, she led the Christmas Carol Team (children and adults) visiting the sick and shut-in in their homes and Convalescent homes bringing smiles to their faces, some remembering the carols would sing along while others just smile and nod their heads in approval and pat the children on their heads.

For her community work, she was the recipient of the 2011 BMBC Community Activist Award on November 28, 2011.

Early in her membership at BMBC, Mary L. Smith was Chairman of Nurses' Guild; later she was appointed to President of the Women's Missionary Union. She was also a Church School Instructor and Superintendent, and a member of the Health Ministry. She served faithfully for many years. In 2010, she was escorted by members of BMBC's Health Ministry to "An Evening with Condoleezza Rice" - an event celebrating women cancer survivors.



Mary L. Smith chaired two significant BMBC programs: 50 Years of Preaching Banquet for Reverend Dr. A. H. Newman and Pastor A. C. Bernstine's Installation Program. She became President Emeritus of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Women's Auxiliary in 2009.

She loved her Denominational work, serving the Progressive Baptist Missionary Educational District Association (PBMEDA) Women's Auxiliary as President, First and Second Vice President, Director of Finance, Chairman of President's Council and was Hospitality Chair for PBMEDA Parent Body. During her Presidency, the Women's Auxiliary Home Mission of the Progressive District Association distributed diapers, wipes, etc. to Women Shelters and mothers in need of help not only in the West Contra County but in San Francisco, Fairfield and Oakland areas.

Mary L. Smith served in the following capacities in the Women's Auxiliary, California State Baptist Convention (CSBC) as: Director of Finance, President's Council Chair, Business & Professional Women 5-District Luncheon Coordinator; Parent Body: Courtesy Chair and Vendor Liaison; Congress: Courtesy Chair and Hotel Liaison.

A Surprise Three-Score and 20 Birthday Celebration was held for her on Friday, March 11, 2011 at Hometown Buffet, Westfield Mall, Fairfield, California, after the 2011 CSBC Annual Session where many of her friends attended and showered her flowers and words of encouragement and thanks.

Her hobbies included shopping, attending the Conventions, shopping, traveling, shopping, bowling and more shopping. Most of all dressing up.

God called Mary L. Smith home from labor to reward on December 10, 2011. Those present were: her daughter, Deborah Dunn, Louise Stewart, Mary Ann Redeaux, Andrea Redeaux, Shana Redeaux and Erma Burnett.

Preceding her in death was her beloved husband, Osborne (Buster) Smith; sister, Josie Dwyer; mother, Gertrude Dwyer; and grandson, Pepito L. Jones, Jr. Leaving to celebrate her home going: her favorite and only beloved daughter, Deborah Dunn, Richmond CA; grandsons, Adrian D. Dunn (Mysha) of Vallejo CA; Lorenzo L. Dunn (Michael), Eureka CA; sister, Avalon Rollie and brother-in-law, Jelly Rollie, Los Angeles CA; great grandchildren, K'laza T. Chapman and Chantel E. Jones, Richmond CA; Jamel L. Dunn and Ishmia Dunn, Vallejo CA; and LaMoria L. Dunn, Eureka CA., as well as a host of relatives, friends and the BMBC Church family.

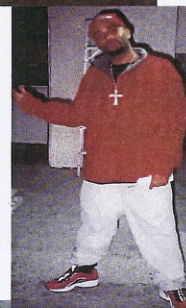
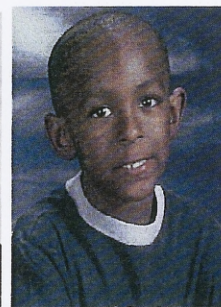


*My aim is:  
To do all the good I can  
By all the means I can  
In all the ways I can  
In all the places I can  
At all the times I can  
To all the people I can  
As long as I can.*





Mr. & Mrs. Osborne Smith & Family







Mary L. Smith & Reverend Kevin Hall



Dewanda Joseph-White, Pastor  
Bernstine & Mary L. Smith



Reverend Greg Payton, Mary L. Smith &  
Agnes Haynes





## *Active Pallbearers*

Deacon Clifford Davis  
J. C. Farr  
J. P. Morgan

Ray Ousborn  
Deacon Len Simmons  
Deacon Joseph Washington

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Deacons, Trustees, Ushers and Nurses, and Officers of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Women Auxiliaries of BMBC, PBMEDA and California State Baptist Convention, and all of the Preacher Sons and friends of Sister Mary L. Smith



## *Acknowledgement*

*The Family wishes to express our heartfelt words of thanks to everyone who shared Gifts of Love, prayers and support during this time of sorrow.*

*Words cannot express how you have made us feel.*

*Please keep us in your prayers and you will be in ours.*

*Repat at Easter Hill Methodist Church, 3911 Cutting Blvd., Richmond, California immediately following the Committal Service.*

**Arrangements Entrusted to:**

### **Advanced Care Funeral & Cremation Services**

*Jermaine Odom, Owner  
Pastor Michael S. Williams, D.Min. (FDR2476)  
2020 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 209  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
(877) 578-3644*



